

The
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Florida's plan for future generations



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Front Cover: 125th Multimedia section creatively illustrate the FTF possibilities for the FLANG. The crystal ball suggests its anybody's guess as to how it will all come out.
Back cover: The 125FW transitioned from the ADF-16 Falcon to the F-15 Eagle in 1995.

Commander's Column

By Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus
Commander, Florida Air National Guard

Several years ago when Major Gen. Douglas Burnett was the Florida Air National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, he held a small gathering of senior leaders to hear a guest speaker and reflect on the future missions of the Florida Air National Guard.

As we met in historic Saint Francis Barracks, the renowned speaker and author John C. Maxwell stated, *"As you contemplate your future, remember this: major barriers to successful planning are fear of change, ignorance, uncertainty about the future and lack of imagination."*

This presentation took place not long after a monumental decision was made regarding the future of fighter aircraft at the 125th Fighter Wing. Then Brig. Gen. Wally Green (AAG-Air at the time) Burnett, Brig. Gen. Emmett Titshaw, Major Gen. Craig McKinley, the 125th commander at the time, and a select group made the decision to transition from the F-16 Falcon to the F-15 Eagle.

Decisions like this define us for years to come and ensure our relevancy as a premier Air National Guard organization.

Since 1947, Florida Air National Guard leaders have made critical decisions resulting in unprecedented growth in mission areas.

Our leaders have never feared change and yes, historically, we

have had to use our imagination to predict the next successes in the area of defense. The legacy's results are a premier fighter wing with an alert detachment, a Red Horse squadron, a weather flight, a weather school, a space range operations squadron, a joint communications squadron, an instructor pilot associate unit and soon, a world-class air operations center.

One would think we could sit back at this point and rest on the successes of the past. After all, these missions are relevant and each unit is performing magnificently.

The truth is we cannot afford to rest as we are on the brink of a dynamic transformational time.

As Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, the Director of the Air National Guard stated during the December 2005 Senior Leadership Conference, "We must create our flight path to 2020 relevance."

Every state and territory was recently asked by the National

"...my responsibility is to always communicate our vision and utilize the prodigious talents of this organization to keep us on the best possible future course..."

Guard Bureau Future Total Force office to create their own road map to "meet the challenges of tomorrow, today." Brigadier Gen. Titshaw, in his role as Deputy Commander, Joint Forces Headquarters, served as the flight lead for this pivotal directive. He asked me, our director of operations, Col. Al Rutherford, our ESSO, Col. Jeanette Booth, our



strategic planner, Col. (ret.) Frank Kozdras and all the FLANG commanders to team up and collectively think through this process. Some of the missions we are pursuing for your future seem unattainable, but, if we "lack imagination," we fail.

As your commander, my responsibility is to always communicate our vision and utilize the prodigious talents of this organization to keep us on the best possible future course.

We know as a result of BRAC, we will receive 18 F-15C models at the wing beginning in 2007 completing the transition by the end of 2009. We also know our associate unit will add an F-22 instructor pilot to their cadre (Major Thomas E. "House"

Kafka). Further, we know we will soon swap our C130E for an AFRC WC-130 that will have the newer dash 15 engines and ap-

proximately 7,000 fewer airframe hours.

Additionally, we know our Program Change Request to convert the 114th Combat Communications Squadron to a fully operationally space squadron is in final review by Air Staff.

This is what we know.

Continued on page 4...

From page 3...

For the future we envision an F-22 integrated associate unit at Tyndall; new fighters for the 125th – possibly an associate unit there too (F-15E Strike Eagles); a KC-135 associate unit or possibly a full up C-130J or Light Cargo Aircraft (LCA) unit at MacDill; an information operations squadron in Jacksonville and further growth of the 114th, 202nd and 290th missions.

As you can see, definitive changes are moving us in an extremely positive direction but we must continue pressing to ensure we gain even more “total force” relevance.

John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address revealed a man facing the future with optimism and enthusiasm, who was challenged by the task of defending freedom. In the address he said, *“In the long history of the world only a few generations have been granted the roll of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility, I welcome it. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world.”*

Operational Readiness Inspections are on the horizon at the 202nd and the fighter wing and it

will be our time to show the rest of the nation how we live and breathe the core value of excellence in all we do!

As an organization, we ask a lot.

We ask you to deploy to the most dangerous places on earth. We ask you to assist during hurricanes. We ask you to maintain currencies in your specialized areas and continue your professional development. We ask you to leave your families for extended periods of time. We ask you to do it all with a winning attitude.

The pride I have as your commander is fortified by the knowledge that, when asked, you will dig down and make a statement that is loud and clear. You state that you are a member of the Florida Air National Guard, you are proud and patriotic Americans, and you don’t settle for anything but the best from yourself and all those working with you. Fellow members of the Florida Air National Guard, thank you for having energy, faith, devotion and for being the prolific team of professionals we can count on to perform our multiple missions with the utmost professionalism and success.

God bless you all and Happy 2006!



Photo by Capt. Lusinda L. Recor, HQ/FLANG PA

Brigadier Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Commander, Florida Air National Guard, speaks to members of the 114CBCS, Dec. 3, 2005 during a commander’s call at the Patrick Air Force Base theater. General Balskus spoke about the squadron’s future and their mission re-roll into Space operations.

Chief's Words

By Chief Master Sgt. Susan E. Shonka
HQ FLANG Command Chief

As our Air Guard family prepares for another new year, I want to stop and take a moment to acknowledge your hard work, dedication and accomplishments of 2005. They serve as a springboard of preparation for a turbocharged 2006. Looking forward, the New Year holds significant challenges with ORIs for the 125FW and 202RHS and continued reorganization of the 114ROPS and SEADS. These efforts will require intense preparation and commitment. I wish you all the best.

In 2005, I accepted several invitations to visit our units and people. I found the one-on-one communication opportunities extremely valuable. The openness and directness of our member's concerns resulted in positive question and answer sessions. Overall, communication channels have improved between HQ and the units. Some members feel inundated with the 'all on domain' e-mail I send while others have commented how they are so much better connected up and down the line as a result of those e-mails.

The New Year will provide opportunities to continue to excel

in readiness, tune our force to the future and add value to the total force initiatives. We will face ongoing leadership challenges of training, motivating, mentoring and recognizing our people. Our people will always be our most valuable resource. Your commitment to their welfare and training is our most important recruitment and retention strategy.

That makes the Florida Air National Guard a premier resource for our Adjutant General, Governor, and President.

I'd like to leave you with comments from one of our senior NCOs who just completed the in-residence Senior NCO Academy – Master Sgt. Gretchen Sherwood.

I strongly support in-residence PME and Sgt. Sherwood's comments echo my sentiments:

Why should you attend Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA) instead of Course 12 via computer correspondence?

Since I've completed both I believe if you really want to be the best Senior NCO you can be you must go to the academy in-residence. The interactive in-



struction, teamwork and high emphasis placed on writing and speaking abilities provide incredible mission essential training. Valuable hands on decision analysis and problem solving skills help Senior NCOs make the best decisions the first time.

The life long friendships and professional networks made at the academy are priceless and can't be matched by a course completed on a computer.

Leadership should encourage attendance as it will be a valuable investment to our mission as a whole.

Bottom-line: a computer course cannot compare to the in-residence SNCOA experience.

-MSgt Gretchen L. Sherwood



Photo courtesy of Capt. Lisa Ward

Staff Sgt. Slychet Stone, 125MSF, center, poses for a photo with Sgt. D.P. Troughton, Directing Staff for Griffon Flight and Capt. Lisa Ward, 125MSF/CC, after graduating from the Canadian Primary Leadership Development Course.

Northern Exposure

An Airman from the 125th Fighter Wing Mission Support Flight graduated from seven weeks of NCO training with the Canadian Forces, Dec. 15, 2005.

Staff Sgt. Slychet Stone was one of two Air Guard NCO's selected by National Guard Bureau to attend the Canadian Primary Leadership Development Course and represent the United States as part of an Air Guard - Canadian Forces exchange program at the Air Command Academy, Borden Air Base, Toronto, Canada. Two Canadian Forces members attended the Air Guard Airman Leadership School (ALS) as part of the exchange program.

A total of 85 Canadian Forces and two Americans graduated and participated in the graduation march and ceremony.

ORI Showtime - FANG culture meets opportunity

By Col. Bob Branyon
125FW Vice Commander

In mid March, the IG team will roll into Jacksonville to test the deployment capability of the 125th Fighter Wing. We've practiced hard, learned a lot of lessons, and tightened up our procedures. We're confident, but there are definitely some butterflies in our bellies.

When it comes to inspections, it's a different world out there now—gone are the days of multiple outstanding and excellent scores. Grades are lower. In fact many units are repeating their ORI, causing other units to be happy with a “pass.” Well, a “pass” has never been a goal of the 125th; our goal, and ORI project officer Lt. Col. Sami Said's goal, is to do well and wow the inspectors. If you've been in the 125th for a while, you know we're a little different than other units.

As FANG members, we walk into a Red Flag exercise, Guard convention, or any gathering of military units with a little bit of swagger in our step. We have a well-deserved outstanding reputation with other units, and it is because of the culture of excellence that resides at the 125th Fighter Wing.

In the past decade, we have earned great scores on inspections, numerous outstanding unit performance awards, and accolades for our deployed alert operations. We're proud of our performance, and you can see that pride in the way we operate.

So, you may ask, if we're so good, why the butterflies; what's the risk? The risk is the fact that we fly 1975 vintage F-15s. They're great machines, but, like a great vintage automobile, they can break at the most inopportune time.

Fortunately, we're blessed with an awesome Maintenance Group that minimizes the number of times the jets break. In fact, since we converted from the F-16 to the F-15, other units have visited our maintenance folks to find out how it is that we are so successful at keeping our jets flying. But still, jets break.

That's where a little luck might help us out. Yes, luck is always a good thing; but, it's my feeling that you make a lot of your own luck.

Every single FANG member who shows up on the base during the inspection can make a significant impact both upon our performance and the perception of the ORI inspection team. Yes, this Phase One ORI is very intense for cer-



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Airmen check deployment bags during an Operational Readiness Exercise at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Florida, October 22, 2005.



Members of the Personnel Deployment Function (PDF) Control Center discuss personnel movement during the Operational Readiness Exercise at the 125th Fighter Wing.





Photo by Staff Sgt Jeffrey Trumble

Above: Senior Airman Adam Shronce, Load Team member, 125th Fighter Wing, Florida Air National Guard, guides a forklift in support of the Operational Readiness Exercise, 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Florida, October 21, 2005.

Below: Chief Master Sgt. Gilbert Thompson, Senior Maintenance Chief, maintains radio contact during aircraft generation of F-15 Eagles in support of an Operational Readiness Exercise



tain groups, like our maintenance folks, our deployment processing machine, and our security forces. Operations, for instance, does not play a huge role like they do in a Phase Two employment inspection.

However, every single person on base can make a difference; it's an entire team effort, from the time you enter the base until you depart at the end of the day. It means wearing the reflective vests, wearing seat belts, and knowing the FPCON (Force Protection Condition) and the current BSD (Battle Staff Directive). It means projecting yourself into the scenario and treating it as real world and not just as a simulated environment; it means showing a sense of urgency.

Most importantly it means continuously looking around your work space and your team and proactively looking for potential mistakes.

It means backing up your buddies and developing an attitude that it is personally up to *you* to "wow" the IG team. If we all take it personally, there's no way we can fail. I've seen the hard work and the faces of determination thus far. The ORI machine is ready. My personal opinion is that we're gonna knock their socks off. I just hope the score we receive reflects the effort and quality of our preparation. But, if Murphy's Law kicks in, and we have some jets break or there's a glitch in our execution, I won't be hangin' my head in shame.

I may have to hide that swagger in my step for a little while, but it won't affect my pride in the culture of excellence displayed by the men and women that make up this awesome fighter wing.

RED HORSE: on a path for growth?

By Col. Wallace J. "Jack" Paschal
202RHS Commander

Our Air Force is constantly justifying its size, shape and structure. Over the last few years, since the Gulf War, congress has asked the Services to adjust and come up with the exact way our Air Force should look beyond the year 2010. Now that the BRAC commission's recommendations are law, base closings and a fear of uncertainty permeates other Air Force units, but not RED HORSE Squadrons (RHS).

Air Combat Command (ACC) deploys active, Guard and Reserve RHS so often that some unit members are requesting to change units. Currently, three active and two Guard units deploy for six-month rotations in the Southwest Asia Theater continuously (the Reserve RHS currently is not deployable). Active units deploy twice as often as Guard units.

This policy will soon exhaust the supply of Guard personnel available to deploy as all members use up their individual 24 months of mobilization authority (each Guard member is allowed 24 months of presidential mobilization authority per contingency operation).

ACC has requested the active, Guard and Reserve components form additional Red Horse squadrons – totaling three new squadrons.

Our State Headquarters leadership team, with 202RHS assistance, put forth an initia-

tive to make the 202nd the Air National Guard component squadron targeted for that growth. We submitted two initiatives to the National Guard Bureau with this mind.

The first proposal – increase the size of the 202RHS to a full 404-person squadron located totally within the state of Florida (the 202nd currently shares functions and capabilities with a sister squadron – the 203rd in Virginia).

This concept could place parts of the squadron in different cities to the west and south of Camp Blanding.

The main headquarters element would be centered at Blanding and would allow the entire squadron to come together there for team training.

The second proposal – spin up an active associate unit at Blanding. The concept would allow approximately 100 active duty personnel to be stationed at Blanding who would then integrate with our drill status Guardsmen and train with the vehicles and equipment currently located at Blanding.

As Air National Guard units close or realign over the next few years' manpower from those units will be shifted to new missions within the Air Guard.

We are posturing ourselves to be the target of opportunity for the growth of the RED HORSE mission for the Air Force.

Up, Up, and Away



Above: F-15 Eagles from the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Florida perform a fly-by during the Jacksonville Sea and Sky Spectacular Air Show, Jacksonville Beach, Florida, Nov. 5, 2005.

Right: An Oreck sponsored plane displays acrobatics. The annual Navy sponsored event featured a dynamic over-the-ocean sky show highlighted by the U.S. Navy Blue Angels along with other military and civilian flight teams, an Amphibious Landing Demonstration, live entertainment, displays, simulators, interactive games and children's activities - all at the Jacksonville Beaches.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Future Total Force: dream or reality?

By Col. David H. Barnhart
290JCSS Commander

By any measure the Air National Guard, the Air Force Reserve and the United States Air Force have been successful taking the idea of "Total Force" from a dream to reality.

We can truly claim that "no one comes close" to challenging the United States as a world class air power. So it begs the question, if we are so successful why do we need a Future Total Force? Simply put if you believe the only constant in the universe is change then we must constantly adapt or face the risk of obsolescence. The next logical progression is to leverage the success of today's Total Force for the future. Those who lived through the growing

pains of the Total Force know some of the challenges that lie ahead and they will be daunting.

The Services, now more than ever, understand and depend on the Guard and Reserve to conduct a wide range of critical operations. During my recent travels to Southwest Asia I flew over 5,000 in-theater miles in 30 days.

The really significant part of this trip for me personally was that all of the aircraft and aircrews that I flew with were Guard and Reserve. Total Force is the reality.

Future Total Force initiatives for the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron are based on a close working relationship with our active duty partner, the Joint Communica-

tions Support Element. In a relationship that spans 20 years, that includes deployments with every service component and several allied nations, the 290th has an unmatched history of mission success. During the next 12 months the unit will receive new communications suites of equipment that will deliver an order of magnitude increase in performance.

At the same time we will undertake a realignment of the organization to better integrate with our active duty component.

Future Total Force for the 290th is less of a dream and more a reality for support of the joint war-fighter.

Letter from Secretary Wynne, CSAF Moseley

The secretary of the Air Force, the Honorable Michael W. Wynne, and the Air Force Chief of Staff, General T. Michael Moseley released a new United States Air Force mission statement in an open letter to Airmen Dec. 7, 2005. It reads:

Almost 60 years ago the President and Congress created our Air Force. The world we live in today has changed dramatically over those six decades. Today, our world is fast paced, constantly shifting, and filled with a wide range of challenges. Our mission is our guiding compass, and now more than ever we need it to be clear and precise. Therefore, we have re-written the Air Force's mission statement to define where and what we do...

*The mission of the United States Air Force is to deliver **sovereign options** for the defense of the United States of America and its global interests - to fly and fight in Air, Space, and **Cyberspace**.*

Our task is to provide the National Command Authority, the Combatant Commanders, and our Nation with an array of options...options that are not limited by the tyranny of distance, the urgency of time, or the strength of our enemy's defenses. With one hand the Air Force can deliver humanitarian assistance to the farthest reaches of the globe, while with the other hand we can destroy a target anywhere in the world. This is the meaning of sovereign options and the essence of being a superpower. We will be the best at what we do, and we will accomplish our mission as part of a joint, coalition team. Our adversaries will contest us across all of the domains: Land, Sea, Air, Space, and Cyberspace. As Airmen, it is our calling to dominate Air, Space, and Cyberspace. If we can decisively and consistently control these commons, then we will deter countless conflicts. If our enemies underestimate our resolve; then we will fly, fight, and destroy them.

The pioneers of airpower - Billy Mitchell, Hap Arnold, Curtis LeMay, Bernie Schriever knew what their mission was: to fly and fight wherever our Nation calls. The Air Force's mission statement has evolved over time, but it does not change the nature of who we are or what we do. Our heritage has given us a limitless horizon. Just as our predecessors did in the past, we will continue to fly, to fight, and to win wherever we are called. We are the greatest Air Force in the world, because of you...because of your sacrifice, dedication, and skill. Keep up the great work!

International Guarding



By Major Sean R. Kelley
379ECS/SCY (114ROPS)
Al Udeid Air Base, Qatar

Photo courtesy of Major Sean R. Kelley

Most communications in the Central Command Area of Responsibility (AOR) use commercial satellite links, or SATCOM.

All coalition forces supporting Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terror rely heavily on these communication and data links.

Like many forms of communication, SATCOM is vulnerable to interference by adversaries deliberately disrupting transmission signals. This intentional disruption is referred to as jamming.

Understanding the vulnerability of SATCOM links, the Combined Forces Air Component Commander (CFACC) determined that a capability to defend these critical communications assets was necessary. At his request, the Satellite Interference Response System, or SIRS, was created.

Initially fielded as a 120-day demonstration program, the SIRS, code name Silent Sentry, began operations in July 2005. The SIRS monitors vital SATCOM links detecting and characterizing an attack.

SIRS then assesses the impact of the attack, pinpoints the intruding signal and provides the findings to the theater command center.

There, the jamming signal is further assessed and, if necessary, targeted. Not all detected interference is hostile.

With the myriad of communication and data transfer taking place in theater, the potential exists for friendly-on-friendly unintentional signal interference.

The mission of SIRS, in this case, is to police the air waves and resolve those conflicts enabling our troops to effectively communicate and continue their mission.

Following the successful 120-day SIRS demonstration period, which accomplished the first-time theater tasking of a space superiority capability, the first fielding of any dedicated space protection capability and the first operational deployment of joint space protection capability, the CFACC requested the SIRS capability become permanent.

The SIRS is deployed to Southwest Asia within Central Command's AOR.

This location offers the best opportunity to monitor the Joint Forces' critical SATCOM links.

The SIRS diverse crew is composed of experts with both technical and operational backgrounds including air component personnel from space and missiles, engineering, satellite communications and signals intelligence.

The team consists of USAF and ANG volunteers. I am fulfilling the role of SIRS Team Commander.

My background includes Air Force Space Command assignments in the fields of missile warning, space surveillance, and space launch. Normally I'm the Chief of Operations Training supporting the 45th Space Wing's 1ROPS, Cape Canaveral AFS.

I assumed command of the SIRS mission Nov. 2, 2005. My team and I are expected to be in place through January 2006 when we will be replaced by the next cadre of space warriors.

Future SIRS support will follow the Air Force rotation schedule of 120 days.

Various space units will be tasked to fill these rotations, including the FLANG's 114ROPS.

Are you crazy?

Why Would Anyone Jump Out of a Perfectly Good Airplane? Colonel Dave Barnhart has heard this question more than he cares to remember.

At age 43 the last thing most people would consider doing is going to the United States Army Basic Airborne School to become a paratrooper, but that's exactly what he did.

In 1998 then Lt. Col. Barnhart was selected to be the commander of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, MacDill AFB. Due to the units airborne mission he had to become a qualified paratrooper.

Jumping from military aircraft is both physically and mentally demanding.

He was not only up to the task but graduated as the class officer honor graduate, receiving the Lt. William T. Ryder award.

In the following two years he completed jumpmaster school and upgraded to a senior parachutist on his 45th birthday, completing 51 jumps.

After a three year break in jumping, Barnhart would again join the ranks of the airborne. In 2005, just days before his 49th birthday, he achieved the status of mas-



Photo courtesy of Col. David H. Barnhart

The view from the ground of the last 75 feet before performing a Parachute Landing Fall (PLF).

ter parachutist. He's not slowing down either. With 74 jumps to his credit he's aiming for the century mark of 100 jumps.

When asked about his experiences as a paratrooper Barnhart explained his greatest thrill was when he got to pin his own jump wings on his nephew, West Point Cadet Bryan Schnitker, upon completing airborne training.

Bryan will graduate this year and be commissioned as an Army Infantry Officer.

Barnhart admitted you don't have to be crazy to jump out of perfectly good airplanes ... but it helps!

Bring on the pain

*By Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr
290JCSS*

Unit Public Affairs Representative

After the dust settled and the threat of hurricanes lessened in Florida, 31 290th personnel decided to take a day and torment themselves by participating in the first annual 290th mini-Adventure race - Bring on the Pain.

The race was held at Macdill AFB Dec. 3rd and consisted of teams of four members each.

Each team member had to complete one leg of the course, which consisted of a 3.1 mile run, 200 yard swim, 12.3 mile bike ride and a 3.4 mile road march carrying 50 pound packs.

The race was held to foster teamwork and camaraderie and it accomplished both.

All members of the event enjoyed themselves and would like to see more of these activities in the future. The race was organized by Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Dorothy Aston

Staff Sgt. Sal Arias finishes the bike portion and tags Master Sgt. Troy Herr who will complete the 3.4 mile road march event.

Building an Air Operations Center

By Col. Debra A. Skelton
SEADS Director of Support

As I look out my office window, I can see the framework of a building reaching towards the winter sky.

This is not just any building, though only 20% complete, it is a compilation of immense vision and dedication - a vision that rose quickly from our nation's Sept. 11, 2001 tragedy.

The Southeast Air Defense Sector (SEADS) became involved in the AOC concept early in 2003 when the architecture drawings were strewn across tables in the 1AF Command Conference Room.

My team and I were requested to review these drawings due to a decision to re-role from a Sector to the AOC mission.

We were lucky if we could spell AOC at the time never mind figuring out the requirements for a world class building to house the entire critical infrastructure required to make the mission a go.

Before the drawings were scrolled across the table for the operators, communicators, and planners to review, there were months of extensive staffing and lobbying at state and national levels. The 325FW commander personally hand carried the final version of the request for MILCON to Congressman Boyd, our district representative. The request included

a new 30,000 square foot facility and the renovation of Bldg. 485 for \$14.4M. Major Gen. Burnett, Congressman Boyd, and his staffer Craig Stevens diligently worked the political front to secure the money for the MILCON project.

Over time the scope of the project evolved due to requirements and availability of MILCON funding. As the months unfolded, the architecture firm and the Army Corps of Engineers worked with users to develop the requirements for bid source selection. Fully engaged at this point, we sent off our assistant engineers to work the selection of the firm that would build the AOC.

The final design plan was scheduled for May 2003. The new facility would be co-located on the existing site of the SEADS at Tyndall AFB, Fla. The existing Air Defense Facility would remain a secure operation fully occupied during construction of the new AOC. Early in June 2003, the AOC site was approved by the 325FW commander, 1AF commander and the Tyndall Installation Security Council.

In November 2003 the money was finally appropriated and congressional authorization was given to construct the now 37,000 square foot AOC. This announcement lit a fire under the Corps of Engineers and the users involved in the design. Off we went into the final design stage and the process to select the contractor to make this vision a reality. The Speegle Company of Pensacola Florida was selected and an announcement was made in July 2004 that construction would soon begin.

On August 18, 2004 we hosted the ground breaking ceremony which was officiated by Congressman Boyd and Major General's McKinley (then 1AF commander) and Burnett. The scope of the facility and the hard work of key players were noted at this auspicious ceremony. Major Gen. McKinley explained the facility would be an approximately 37,000 square feet multi-level structure. The AOC



Workers lay the foundation for the new Air Operations Center slated for completion sometime this year.



Photos courtesy of Tech. Sgt. Matthew Dawson & Tech. Sgt. Brian Murphy

An aerial view of the ongoing construction of the new AOC building.

would maintain computer-based high tech weaponry, built to conform to the requirements for Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIF). The facility would house AOC combat operations, the communications support team, and the AOC intelligence team - the core of the AOC mission.

Our preconstruction meeting was held in October 2004 with Speegle and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Notice to Proceed was issued for May 2005 then slipped to June 2005 in order to resolve a storm water run-off issue. Our team continues to work with the contractor, base, and the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure this state-of-the-art building meets the demanding requirements of a world class AOC.

As we transform our mission this project is symbolic of the exciting and vital defense area we are entering.

Building an AOC is not an everyday event. It is a challenge that we embrace and accept as our future.



Artistic rendering by Mr. Lacy McCall

A sneak peek of things to come.

159th Weather Flight continues to excel

By Lt. Col. Stephen M. Longobardi
159WF Commander

The 159th Weather Flight had an active quarter. We kicked it off with a significant retirement ceremony and finished it with a great deal of service to our state for hurricane relief.

Senior Master Sgt. Jon Carillon retired Oct. 3, 2005 with more than 24 years of active service.

Carillon was the first and only fulltime meteorological technician (until he retired) the 159WF ever had.

The 159WF was formally activated Feb. 1, 1993 and Carillon joined the Florida ANG, leaving the Texas ANG, just before the formal activation.

Through the 12 plus years, only one person has been at the 159WF everyday serving as the unit's lone AGR.

That person was Jon Carillon. We held a retirement ceremony Oct. 13 in his honor.

He was presented a Meritorious Service Medal and Florida Cross for his distinguished service to his unit, state and country.

Carillon's retirement was the second time this year that an original member of the flight retired.

Earlier this year, Master Sgt. Terry Upchurch retired. Only one original member of the weather flight team remains - Tech. Sgt. Dave Brown. I've noticed that as the "first generation" members retire, it is not just a "changing of the Guard" but more of a "passing of an era."

The unit continues to deploy personnel.

Technical Sgt. Jessica Dahlquist is deployed to Fort Campbell, Ky. providing weather operations support to the 101st Airborne Division. She has applied for and received an extension to the deployment and we expect her back in May 2006.

Technical Sgt Mike Casey will deploy to Langley AFB, Va. in January for 90 days to help out the weather unit there that supports the 1TFW.

This will be his second deployment there in less than a year.

The 159th also had over half of its available enlisted personnel activated for Hurricane Wilma.

Two folks, Tech. Sgt. Dave Brown and Senior Airman Carlos Urrutia, worked in ESF 5 at the State EOC in Tallahassee augmenting the State Meteorologist.

Master Sgt. Carlos Delanuez, Tech. Sgt. Mike Casey, Senior Airman Tyson Everett and Senior Airman Alan Wilkerson worked JEOC duties in St Augustine providing weather support to the JEOC staff and forward deployed FLNG units.

Staff Sgt. Daphne Violette joined the JEOC team after completing Airman Leadership School.

She and Tech. Sgt. Casey supported the later stages of Operation Wilma from our unit HQ at Camp Blanding Joint Training Center as the hurricane relief efforts thankfully wrapped up.



Senior Master Sgt. Jon Carillon, left, poses for a photo with Brig. Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, Commander, Florida Air National Guard, during his retirement ceremony Oct. 3, 2005. Carillon retired with more than 24 years of active service.

Photo special courtesy of Ms. Char Geiger

Air Guard General leads JTF Wilma

Before the historic 2004 hurricane season, Florida was hit by an average of one to two low impact storms per year.

The lessons learned from Hurricane Andrew, the unprecedented hurricane season of 2004 and the deployment of multiple Florida Army Guard units overseas have required improved constructs in conducting hurricane relief operations.

Historically an Army Guard General Officer filled the role of Florida National Guard Hurricane Task Force commander.

The Army team performed brilliantly during 2004 but their resources were growing thin. Major Gen. Douglas Burnett, the adjutant general of Florida, called upon Brig. Gen. Buddy Titshaw, then FLANG commander, to pull more personnel resources from the state to support the humanitarian relief efforts.

Titshaw responded with more than 600 ANG personnel - more than any other time in the FLANG's history.

During the time between the 2004 and 2005 hurricane season, Burnett had to put his "Joint Headquarters" into action. He began by calling upon Brig. Gen. Joe Balskus, the new commander of the Florida Air National Guard, to assist funding upgrades of the Ensslin Armory Emergency Operations Center.

Balskus was able to find funding for high technology plasma screens, laptops, and other furnishings and then tasked Colonel Al Rutherford to expand the Air Component Coordination Element (ACCE).

Burnett then called upon the Air Generals, along with other Army Senior leaders, to attend Joint Task Force Commander training. As it turned out, this move off of traditional roles paid huge dividends during 2005.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated the Louisiana and Mississippi Gulf Coast, the National Guard was being scrutinized and its ability to adequately respond to the needs of the citizens was being questioned.

Little did anyone know, another test was brewing off our coast and Florida would face another major hurricane threat.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Hudson

Brig. Gen. Emmett R. "Buddy" Titshaw, commander Joint Task Force-Wilma, meets with soldiers during a tour of relief effort sites.

The entire world was watching to see if the Florida National Guard could handle the event without the command and control element of the United States Northern Command.

Burnett needed someone to take flight lead as the Joint Task Force Commander and orchestrate the Florida National Guard support to Gov. Jeb Bush and his team of nationally recognized professionals.

Without hesitation, he looked to Titshaw who had over 34 years experience and was serving as the Deputy Commander of Florida Joint Force Headquarters.

Titshaw served as the TAG's Operation Wilma Joint Task Force commander, commanding elements of the Florida Army and Air National Guard.

His masterful handling of all events associated with Wilma included adding new capability to the FLNG Joint Operations Center by creating a situational awareness enhancing "Common Operating Picture" and building an Air Operations Cell to produce Air Tasking Orders, coordinate air mobility/logistics, and ensure total connectivity with Continental United States Northern Region.

The end result was just what the TAG envisioned: The citizens of Florida were well served, the media validated our success and the national command structure universally applauded Florida.

Burnett shook the hand of his long-time friend and said, "Brig. Gen. Buddy Titshaw, thank you for a job well done!"

202nd/203rd RED HORSE excel during N

*By Staff Sgt. Bill Nicholls
202nd RED HORSE Squadron, FLANG*

OCEANA NAS, Virginia – More than 200 Florida and Virginia Airmen from the 202nd/203rd RED HORSE Squadron passed an Operational Readiness Exercise here Nov. 7-12, 2005.

Colonel Jack Paschal, 202RHS Commander, commented, “We did well enough to pass, and that’s impressive.

We improved day by day, up a scale. The biggest comment the evaluators made was that the attitude of all the people continued to excel.” The last ORE for the 202nd was conducted eight years ago. This ORE was almost cancelled due to 202nd Sept-Oct relief missions in Mississippi following Hurricane Katrina. The ORE originally was to be held in Florida. Due to the 202nd’s OPS tempo, the 203rd RED HORSE Flight stepped up to host the ORE at their Camp Pendleton, Va. compound. Planning for an ORE normally takes months.

The 203RHF completed planning in seven weeks. 203rd Commander, Lt Col Paul Julian said a great deal of coordination was necessary. “Mainly the AGR’s (active guard/reserve) put this together through meetings with the IG (inspector general). Obviously we had to get all the food and building materials ordered and pre-stage all the equipment to be taken out to the field. They did a great job. There are only 22 AGR’s so that’s a lot of work for 22, plus some traditional Guardsmen came in to help, said Julian.” The 203RHF Deputy Commander, Major Pete Garner, said some minor changes after the first day paid big dividends.



Members of the 202d/203rd REDHORSE Squadron participated in the Operational Readiness Exercise at Camp Pendleton, Va., Nov. 7-12, 2005.

Continued next page...



Staff Sgt. Robert Willimas, 203rd Red Horse Flight, walks by a crane that will be used to lift a K-Span building into place at Camp Pendleton, Virginia, Nov. 11, 2005



Master Sgt. Hughes Bernard, Crane Operator, 203d Red Horse Flight, operates the crane during the Operational Readiness Exercise at Camp Pendleton, Va.

November ORE



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

Squadron put up tents during a joint Operational Readiness Exercise, Nov. 8.



Staff Sgt. David Newhard, 202d Red Horse Squadron, (right) and Airman 1st Class Jason Mann, 203rd Red Horse Flight, hook up a Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) for an Emergency Airfield Lighting System (EALS) during a joint Operational Readiness Exercise involving the 202d Redhorse Squadron, Camp Blanding, Florida, and the 203d Redhorse Flight, Camp Pendleton, Va., Nov. 9, 2005.



Red Horse Flight, checks the rigging on a K-Span during the

“We started off kind of slow, got behind a little bit at first. We made a few personnel changes—philosophy and assignment—but I think we turned things around. Definitely the sense of urgency picked up. Attitude was outstanding. We learned some good lessons, made some minor tweaks here and there, and we’re going to do well on the ORI (Operational Readiness Inspection)” said Garner.

He continued, “The desert (Operation Iraqi Freedom) was the first big deployment we did together. We’ve built from that. When you guys came up here, I saw a lot of handshakes, a lot of ‘nice to see you, haven’t seen you in a while,’ so we’ve come a long way, and still have a little way to go, but I think we’re getting there.”

The 202nd/203rd RHS will be tested again in February 2006 at Camp Pendleton, during the Operational Readiness Inspection.

Field Training Element: providing training and support beyond Florida's borders

By Tech. Sgt. Robert D. Patterson

WRTC Instructor

With the recent transformation of Air National Guard Weather, personnel assigned to newly formed Combat Weather Teams (CWT) suddenly found themselves embedded in ANG flying wings and cut-off from the weather training opportunities and support previously available for operational and technical issues.

"That's a real challenge for those teams," said the Weather Readiness Training Center (WRTC) Commandant, Lt. Col. Loretta Lombard. The WRTC Field Training Element (FTE) was created to help those teams be successful. Lombard said the WRTC "will do whatever is necessary to meet the challenge; either from the schoolhouse here in Florida, or by traveling to the CWT location to provide training tailored to the specific need."

In October 2004 the WRTC established an additional mission consisting of four enlisted AGR members for the FTE. The FTE is the focal point for technical training issues and support for CWT's embedded in ANG flying squadrons.

Prior to transformation, the ANG weather community had 33 weather flights in 25 states that

had the infrastructure to conduct training in-house. With transformation, smaller CWTs are now embedded in 54 flying squadrons in 37 states – a total of 233 personnel. In many cases, the embedded CWTs are providing weather support to customers and/or states that had no dedicated weather support in the past, creating a steep learning curve for both the new weather team and the supported flying unit.

Fortunately, the instructors of the WRTC FTE are available to assist. The FTE is staffed to provide TDY Mobile Training Teams and Staff Assistance Visits. The FTE also provides weekend support to be available to the embedded ANG weather units during drill weekends.

During these weekends, the FTE provides "helpdesk" support to answer questions ranging from, "How do we obtain the equipment we need?" to "How is a LASER guided weapon employed?" If the weather members come to Florida for "just-in-time-training" prior to a deployment or the instructors travel to provide on-site assistance at the unit's home base, the Field Training Element of the WRTC is ready and available to conduct the training 'anytime – anywhere.'



Photo courtesy of the WRTC

Technical Sgt. Rob Rock (right) and Tech. Sgt. Todd Carballo (left), both weather instructors assigned to the Field Training Element, provide Target Acquisition Weapons Software (TAWS) instruction to Staff Sgt. Drew Foote (seated) of the 150th Fighter Wing, NM ANG.

Down time in the field

By Master Sgt. Troy H. Herr and
Staff Sgt. Raymond C. Hundley
290JCSS Unit Public Affairs
Representatives

You are hundreds of miles from nowhere with not much to do but get on your buddies nerves. The communications equipment you are here to maintain and operate is purring along very nicely, too nicely thank you! After a month of watching those green lights, you start to wish something would go red. Maybe a generator would quit working or perhaps one of those nefarious sun spots could flare up and take out the satellite shot. Anything to break the boredom!

Welcome to our world at Camp "Somewhere", Afghanistan.

Eight members of the 290th Joint Communications Support Squadron, Florida Air National Guard, recently returned to the States from a two-month tour in Afghanistan. The biggest challenge while there was to find ways to entertain themselves. The eight had the usual amenities; movies, cards and rocket propelled grenades, but watching Star Wars Episode III was entertaining for just so long.

Some of the more creative ways of relaxing was to build a Florida sunroom and then wander over to the "Putt Putt" golf course for a nice friendly game of rock golf.

Master Sgt. Jeffrey L. Waller, 290th Systems Chief for the eight member team, said the highlight of the tour was the opportunity to go out and try other types of weapons besides the M16 and M9.

Air Guard "communicators" seldom get the chance to fire exotic military weapons and blow things up. All the members were given the opportunity to demonstrate their prowess with

many different types of destructive devices including AK-47s, Mark-19 grenade launchers, A4 rocket launchers, a M249B machine gun and several .50 caliber machine guns.

The 290th members were also afforded the opportunity to take part in the final "disassembly" of the operating location. Every transportable resource was either flown or trucked to Bagram Air Base or the United States.

Wooden facilities and two Alaskan tents were incinerated on the final day before US forces pulled out of the area. Techni-

cal Sgt. Scott A. Craver, one of the eight, stayed behind for three additional days to provide communications support while the final equipment and personnel re-deployed from the site.

They don't usually make Hollywood movies out of the exploits of a communication technician or systems administrator, that realm belongs to infantry troops or fighter pilots.

Hopefully this article will, however, offer some understanding of the exploits of your average communications Airman deployed for the war effort.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Raymond Hundley

Staff Sgt. Jason Golden takes a golf break from his duties. Some of the more creative ways of relaxing in Afghanistan was to build a Florida sunroom and then wander over to the "Putt Putt" golf course for a nice friendly game of rock golf.

Seamless integration of FLANG members creates Future Total Force 'today'

By 2nd Lt. William Powell
325FW Public Affairs

TYNDALL AFB, Florida - For six years, a small unit here has executed a mission that could mean the difference between life and death for our Airmen and our adversaries, yet few people here even know they exist. They are the 325th Fighter Wing Air National Guard Associate Unit - a small group of Florida Air National Guardsmen integrated throughout the three F-15 Eagle fighter squadrons. Their mission is simple: Provide Tyndall fighter squadrons with highly experienced F-15 Eagle pilots to train the nation's newest Eagle drivers.

According to Col. Billy Graham, the unit commander, in 1997 when the unit was conceived, the Air Force was losing experienced Eagle pilots at an alarming rate as many pilots decided to retire or

separate to pursue other interests. Air Force, Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve senior officials quickly developed a plan to establish ANG and Reserve associates unit at Tyndall and Luke AFB, Arizona to turn the tide.

As the first-ever associate unit in the ANG, Graham had the task of hiring highly experienced pilots who were leaving active duty to pursue other career interests. "We captured folks who may not have ever flown or fought for the Air Force again," said Graham. "We grabbed their experience and kept them employed teaching the newer pilots."

The formation of the detachment occurred five years before Air Force officials announced the Future Total Force plan, which is meant to combine the inherent strengths and experiences of all three Air Force components to increase overall combat capability.

One of the major strengths the ANG offers Tyndall is job continuity since the Guardsmen have the ability to remain as instructors here for as long as they want, said Lt. Col. Todd Williams, 2nd FS IP and part-time Guardsman. "Some of the pilots going through upgrade instructor pilot training right now were students of mine years ago here," said Williams. "I've been on base since 1996, and I've seen some of these guys for the third time here. How many (active duty) guys are at a base that long?"



Photo by 2nd Lt. William Powell

Major Porter, right, watches Col. Hallman complete his pre-flight checks before flying the Eagle. Major Porter is one of 34 FLANG members here whose mission is to help train pilots for the combat air forces.

The ability to remain here and continue flying also helps the pilots rack up more flying hours in the Eagle. "Some people may be a little surprised that the average F-15 time in my unit is 1851 hours, which is

probably significantly more than the average active-duty IP here," said Graham. "Staying here just increases their experience and stability that helps the student and also helps with transferring the experience to the new active-duty instructor pilots who eventually go back out (into the combat air forces)."

Since most active-duty pilots eventually stop flying as they progress in their career, choosing to transition into the Guard afforded the instructors the opportunity to continue doing what they love - flying and teaching.

"I like being an instructor, and I love the students' eagerness to learn," said Maj. Jeff Ward, 95th FS IP and member of the Guard since January. "I also wanted to come back home. Both my wife and I grew up here. The Guard gives me

Continued next page...

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stability, and just getting to stay here and instruct in the Eagle is a dream.”

Although the Guardsmen are technically assigned to the 325FW ANG Associate Unit, a joint decision was made early on for the Guard instructors to appear seamless by wearing the patches of their assigned active-duty squadron.

The decision fosters unit cohesiveness and makes it difficult for the students to initially tell the difference between active and Guard IPs.

“(Students) eventually figure out who is Guard through word of mouth or by talking to them,” said 1st Lt. Orion Vail, 95th FS student pilot.

Civil Air Patrol guards the night

*1Lt (USAF Master Sgt.) David M. Lowe - Civil Air Patrol Southeast Region, Florida
169 Cecil Field Composite Squadron Commander*

It was the night of Dec. 7/8 and I just got home from nightshift at the FANG. I settled in to get some sleep when, at 4 a.m., my phone rang. It was the on-call scene commander for the North Florida region.

He said an emergency beacon was going off somewhere near the Buckman Bridge and he needed a ground search team to locate the source. It was my turn to be on call for the search team so I called my operations officer and coordinated a place to meet and we were on the hunt.

Using our locator, called the “Elper,” we searched all around the Buckman Bridge area and could not find an emergency beacon signal. After about two hours I suggested we try the top of the bridge.

Not sure if that was a brave or an insane move with the traffic that flows on the bridge but after reaching the top and searching for a signal we finally had a hit - it was coming from NAS JAX.

We thought the signal may be emanating from a boat as we entered NAS Jax and drove to the Yacht Club. We narrowed the signal down to a boat in one of the slips.

Someone had inadvertently hit the switch to the beacon that started the whole search and rescue chain of events.

This time around no one was in danger but it could have been a rescue mission.

“The Guardsmen really know the jet and the local area, so you get the sense they’ve been here for a while. I really enjoy flying with all of them.”

In addition to instructing new student pilots, the detachment IPs also hold or have held nearly every leadership job in the squadrons short of the squadron commander position.

All the Active Guard and Reserve IPs are operations supervisor qualified, and many are supervisor of flying qualified.

Without the Guardsmen’s qualifications and expertise, the squadrons would have a difficult time performing their mission, said Graham.

That’s what it’s all about for the members in the Civil Air Patrol. We train for the real world mission to save lives. I have the privilege of commanding the Cecil Field Composite Squadron composed of 20 cadets ages 12 to 18 and 35 adult members. We train continuously for homeland defense and search and rescue missions.

The Civil Air Patrol was founded in 1941 and it’s a little like the FANG: we are a well kept secret in Jacksonville.

My squadron belongs to group that consists of Fernandina, Jax Craig, Lake City, Gainesville, St Augustine and soon to be added Daytona and Ormond Beach squadrons.

Cadets attend aerospace education classes, moral leadership classes, drill and ceremonies, radio communications, and direction finding courses to name a few.

Members also form ground teams and actually support the mission of search and rescue.

The Cadets have the opportunity to participate in the Army Ranger School in Florida and the Hawk Mountain Search and Rescue school in Pennsylvania and countless other schools and competitions.

If you, your son or daughter are interested in volunteering please contact me at david.lowe@fljack.ang.af.mil or you can search the web www.cap.gov for more information.



Photo courtesy of Master Sgt. David Lowe

Members of the Civil Air Patrol 169 Cecil Field Composite Squadron stop for a photo-op during a recent visit to D.C.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Lt. Col. Steven E. Thompson
125FW Chaplain

As I write this, Operation Christmas Stocking 2005 is finishing strong. It appears we will collect more than 1800 gifts to share with the abandoned, neglected and abused foster care children living in our North Florida communities. Praise the Lord and thank you for your incredible generosity and giving spirit. You all are terrific!

Speaking of giving, our upcoming ORI will provide us with many opportunities to give. Our abundance of tasks will cause most of us all to feel *give out*.

Many will be ready to *give in* to frustration and fatigue.

In doing so we will surely *give away* the higher scores we deserve. However, if we *give* our best efforts and refuse to *give up*, I am convinced we will be more than pleased with the results.

Vince Lombardi, the famed coach of the Green Bay Packers, once spoke to his players saying, *"Winning is not a sometime thing; it's an all the time thing. You don't win once in a while; you don't do things right once in a while; you do them right all the time. Winning is a habit."*

He went on to encourage them, *"The object is to win - to beat the other guy. Maybe that sounds hard or cruel. I don't think it is. It is a reality of life that men are competitive and the most competitive games draw the most competitive men."*



Captain Robert T. Botkin, 125th Maintenance Squadron commander, places labels on gifts to be distributed through Operation Christmas Stocking Dec. 4, 2005 .

Photos by Senior Master Sgt. Lea-An Steiner



That's why they are there - to compete, to know the rules and objectives when they get in the game. The object is to win fairly, squarely, by the rules - but to win.

And in truth, I've never known a man worth his salt who in the long run, deep down in his heart, didn't appreciate the grind, the discipline.

There is something in good men that really yearns for discipline and the harsh reality of head to head combat. I don't say these things because I believe in the "brute" nature of man or that man must be brutalized to be combative.

I believe in God, and I believe in human decency. But I firmly believe that any man's finest hour, the greatest fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle - victorious."

The Bible records much about giving. The Lord Jesus said, "Give and it shall be given unto you. They will pour into your lap, pressed down, shaken together and running over. For by your standard of measure it will be given to you in return." (Luke 6:38)

The Apostle Paul echoed Christ's words, "... whatever a man sows, this he will also reap." (Galatians 6:7)

It is an obvious, inevitable truth of life, i.e., one must be willing to give if they hope to get. Ultimately, the more they



Above: Staff Sgt. Paul Palanzi (left) and Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Steve Thompson, 125th Fighter Wing, hold the model of an F-15, F-16, and P-51 Mustang that Palanzi won in the Operation Christmas Stocking raffle, Dec. 4, 2005. The model, made by Major Michael Prinzi, garnered \$506 for Operation Christmas Stocking.



Top Left: Presents fill the pews in the Base Chapel of 125th Fighter Wing.

Left: Staff Sgt. Marlena Schmitt (left) and Airman 1st Class Chuck Smith, 125th Fighter Wing, are making the list and checking it twice, to match gifts with children for Operation Christmas Stocking 2005,

Below: Christmas presents for Operation Christmas Stocking to be delivered to the Department of Children and Family Services, fill a trailer at the 125th Fighter Wing,

give, the more they receive and are thereby able to give even more.

Whether it is an ORE, ORI or OCS (Operation Christmas Stocking) you have proven yourselves to be *go givers* in what has become a *go getter* world.

As far as Operation Christmas Stocking is concerned your reward awaits. (Hebrews 6:10)

And, I pray and am equally confident that our other challenges in the coming months will be met with equal success.

God Bless You! Chaplain



News from HQ

Colonel Jesse Kinghorn: Florida's first 'blue suit' State Quartermaster

By Major Kevin T. Cotton
125FW Public Affairs

"If the Quartermaster General is not a man of great resource and activity, and worthy of the highest confidence, he would be unfit for the military station he is to occupy: for as it is not possible at all times to conceal from him real designs and movements under false appearances, the better and safer way is to place full confidence in him under the seal of responsibility." George Washington, July 4, 1798.

When Col. Jesse Kinghorn speaks of the responsibility of his new job with the Florida National Guard, he talks in terms of green.

Not the green of an Army uniform or Air Guard BDUs, but the green of funding dollars for those who wear green or blue.

Kinghorn is the first "blue suit" to serve as State Quartermaster (SQM) for the State of Florida.

The fact that he is the first Air Guardsman to hold the position in the history of the Florida National Guard is not lost on him.

However, he speaks more of his assignment in terms of service, not color of uniform.

"When you take a look at it, the name State Quartermaster is an Army term. To put a blue suite person in there really has no bearing on the position itself.

A blue suit or Army suit can serve in the position. I think it's a privilege to have the opportunity," Kinghorn said during a recent visit to the 125th Fighter Wing.

Brigadier Gen. Joseph G. Balskus, commander of the Florida Air National Guard, said the selection of Kinghorn by Maj. Gen. Douglas Burnett, the state's Adjutant General, is a testament to the new State Quartermaster's ability.

"He [Burnett] has built a team of highly skilled professionals capable of meeting the demands of a highly challenging time," Balskus explained. "Therefore, his [Kinghorn's] selection comes as no surprise."



Photos by Ms. Debbie Cox HQ/FLNG PA

Colonel Jesse Kinghorn, the first 'blue suit' State Quartermaster, oversees a staff of approximately 50 personnel and is responsible for the appropriation of more than \$63 million in state funding.

Kinghorn assumed the position Oct. 1, 2005, after serving more than 10 years as U.S. Property and Fiscal Officer for Florida.

That position involved the spending and reporting of federal dollars allotted to the state.

The State Quartermaster position is tasked with administering state funds appropriated to the Department of Military Affairs.

A 33-year veteran of the National Guard, Kinghorn explained the importance of the SQM position is to ensure funds and property are received and accounted for according to Florida statutes.

Kinghorn, whose military assignments have been in positions of finance, supply and purchasing, oversees a staff of approximately 50 personnel and is responsible for the appropriation of more than \$63 million in state funding.

During the last two catastrophic hurricane seasons, the SQM office has executed approximately \$60 million in support of relief operations.

He noted that securing state appropriations is not as streamlined as acquiring federal funding. "By having limited resources I enjoy the challenge of assisting organizations to meet their mission requirements," Kinghorn said.

FLANG adds new fulltime 'Air' JAG assets

By Lt. Col. Gary S. Stere
HQ/FLANG Staff Judge Advocate

To increase the level of support to the FLANG Geographically Separated Units, the Southeast Air Defense Sector Legal Office will begin providing the primary legal support for these units.

Lieutenant Col. Michael Guillory, the SEADS Staff Judge Advocate, and Senior Master Sgt Nora Byas, the SEADS Legal Office Superintendent, will now be joined by Capt. Jeffrey Hedges who recently entered the FLANG.

Together, this fulltime staff will be the GSU commanders' primary support for all legal issues, to include adverse administrative actions and disciplinary actions under the Florida Code of Military Justice.

Commanders may contact Lt. Col. Guillory at DSN 523-5334 or (850) 283-5334.

The 125th Fighter Wing will continue to be supported by their wing legal office.

There, Major Dexter Davis, the 125FW Staff Judge Advocate, was recently joined by Capt. Bryan Van Brunt.

Together with Master Sgt. Susan Mason and Tech. Sgt. Stephen Turner, this staff of traditional Guardsmen continues to provide the 125th with their legal support needs.

During UTA's, Major Davis may be reached at DSN 641-7040 or (904) 741-7040. Between UTA's, commanders may contact him at his civilian work in Jacksonville at (904) 354-0104.

The FLANG is fortunate to have these highly qualified officers and paralegals to provide the legal expertise and assistance required to support the FLANG's varied and demanding missions.

We welcome our two new judge advocates to the FLANG and look forward to their contributions to the organization.

New fulltime 'Air' Inspector General



By Lt. Col. Jean M. Jones
The Office of the Inspector General

My selection as the first fulltime Florida Air National Guard Inspector General (IG) in the Joint Forces Headquarters (JFHQ) of the Florida National Guard (FNG) is quite an honor.

The opportunity to provide services on a consistent basis to all members of the Florida National Guard is a welcomed challenge.

Joint operations are not new to our military, but it certainly has been more effec-

tively utilized throughout the state, we turn no one away from our office. Geographically separated unit commanders within the state will also gain from the broad spectrum of experience and knowledge of our IG staff. It is our goal to establish, with each commander, a trusted working relationship. We will work with each commander to build a bridge of outreach and assistance throughout the State. It is Col. John Jordan's (The Inspector General of the Florida National Guard) goal, that his staff is trained in both Army and Air IG techniques prior to the end of the current fiscal year. Not only will this education prove beneficial for the IG staff, but also to the soldiers and airmen, and their families who will reap the benefits of having better access to a broader selection of services.

unique role of being an unbiased extension of the eyes, ears, voice and conscience of commanders by improving our military while protecting the rights of individuals through timely, complete, thorough, investigations, inspections and assistance inquiries.

What makes the focus of this office so unique is that anyone whose nexus is federal can receive assistance.

While we are reaching out to the soldiers and airmen

tively utilized throughout the state, we turn no one away from our office. Geographically separated unit commanders within the state will also gain from the broad spectrum of experience and knowledge of our IG staff. It is our goal to establish, with each commander, a trusted working relationship. We will work with each commander to build a bridge of outreach and assistance throughout the State. It is Col. John Jordan's (The Inspector General of the Florida National Guard) goal, that his staff is trained in both Army and Air IG techniques prior to the end of the current fiscal year. Not only will this education prove beneficial for the IG staff, but also to the soldiers and airmen, and their families who will reap the benefits of having better access to a broader selection of services.

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Security Issues

By Tech. Sgt. Ben Cline
125FW Antiterrorism Office

Identity theft occurs when someone uses your personal information such as your name, social security number, credit card numbers or other identifying information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes.

People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years and their hard-earned money cleaning up the mess thieves have made of their good name and credit record.

Meanwhile, victims may lose job opportunities, are refused loans, education, housing or cars, or even get arrested for crimes they didn't commit.

If you think your identity has been stolen, here's what to do now:

Contact the fraud departments of any one of the three major credit bureaus to place a fraud alert on your credit file.

The fraud alert requests creditors to contact you before opening any new accounts or making any changes to your existing accounts.

As soon as the credit bureau confirms your fraud alert the other two credit bureaus will be automatically notified to place fraud alerts and all three credit reports will be sent to you free of charge. Close the accounts that you know or believe have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. File a police report. Get a copy of the report to submit to your creditors and others that

may require proof of the crime. File your complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). The FTC maintains a database of identity theft cases used by law enforcement agencies for investigations. Source: FTC www.consumer.gov/idtheft. If you have any questions about personal security contact the 125FW Antiterrorism office (904) 741-7871.

ID Card News

Recent legislation allows for permanent ID cards to be issued to eligible family members and former spouses age 75 or older.

The DMDC office recently sent letters to family members and former spouses explaining that the permanent ID card will not need to be renewed unless it is lost, damaged, or if their eligibility for the entitlement changes.

The availability of the new permanent ID card does not in any way invalidate their current ID card, or any associated benefits and it is not necessary for the beneficiary to obtain a permanent card unless it is within 90 days of expiration. At that time, they are instructed to visit the nearest ID card issuing facility to receive the new permanent card or "mail-in" a request for a permanent card.

Family Readiness

By Beth Eifert
FANG Family Readiness Coordinator

Boy do I have great news for you! Family Readiness now offers a monthly online newslet-

ter that provides up-to-date information on issues important to Guard families, including: unit updates, Guard benefits, deployment information, scholarship opportunities, and USO events. It also includes links to helpful websites and a "Kids' Corner."

A smattering of topics addressed in recent issues includes:

***Free SAT software for Guard families with college bound kids**

***New "Coping with deployment" seminar**

***Blue Star Mothers of America: Moms supporting their military children**

***Operation Christmas Stocking 2005**

***GI Bill and VA Loans - Don't forget these benefits!**

***New child care program for the 125FW**

Don't wait for your Guard member to forward your email address to me.

If you would like to receive this monthly publication, please send your email address to

Beth.Eifert@fljack.ang.af.mil, or call 904-741-7027 and leave a voicemail (please speak slowly and spell your e-mail address).

I will not share your e-mail with any third parties.

You can also find the issues archived on our website: www.fangfamilies.org. Simply click on "Newsletters" in the red tool bar on the home page.

I extend this offer to the parents of our Guard members, too. Simply forward their email address and I'll include them on the list.

Safety Matters

By Tech. Sgt. Paula M. Milton
125FW Safety Office

Experts strongly recommend children between the ages of four and eight who weigh 40-80 pounds and are less than four feet, nine inches tall, use a belt-positioning booster seat with a lap-shoulder seat belt.

A booster seat raises the child's seated height, which allows the belt system to comfortably and **safely** rest across their body.

The 2005 Florida Statutes on child restraint states:

"Every operator of a motor vehicle as defined herein, while transporting a child in a motor vehicle operated on the roadways, streets, or highways of this state, shall, if the child is five years of age or younger, provide for protection of the child by properly using a crash-tested, federally approved child restraint device.

For children aged through three years, such restraint device must be a separate carrier or a vehicle manufacturer's integrated child seat.

For children aged four through five years, a separate carrier, an integrated child seat, or a seat belt may be used."

Properly secure your children while riding in motor vehicles. It's the law, but more importantly, your children are worth the effort!

The 4th Quarter 2005 125FW Outstanding Safety Performance award was presented to Master Sgt. William R. Holly, Jr., 125CES, Liquid Fuels Maintenance.

As the civil engineer squadron safety program manager, Holly is an aggressive leader in the field of safety.

In addition to his regular support duties, he maintains a keen eye for safety complacency in the squadron work environ-

ment and will immediately correct any situation which may compromise safety, lead to damage, or cause injury.

Holly is able to put his awareness of safety to a unique test by working daily with trustees from a local correctional facility.

The assignment is beyond simply supervising these men. He leads them through many difficult tasks with varying degrees of risk of physical injury.

With careful and thorough planning, the risks are assessed and tasks completed.

In a situation where men may otherwise be injured, Holly's attention to detail assures his men emerge unscathed.

Congratulations Sgt Holly! For his efforts he is awarded with a certificate and a \$25.00 gift card to Outback Steakhouse.

If you witness a safe practice or a 'safety attitude,' nominate that individual by submitting an AF Form 1206, Nomination for Award, to the 125FW Safety Office.

You can send that nomination form by email to wingsafety@fljack.ang.af.mil or call 904-741-7015.

SGLI Update

The Florida Legislature has authorized the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) to reimburse Florida National Guard members for the Servicemen's Group Life Insurance (SGLI) premiums paid for a one year period.

This legislation was passed prior to the recent SGLI coverage and premium increase and stipulated a fixed dollar amount as available for this action.

As a result, the funds available for this reimbursement are not sufficient to cover a full year at the new premium rates.

DMA is proceeding with the reimbursement action within the available funds.

On or about Dec. 15, 2005, you should have received the first installment of the reimbursement.

This first effort covered the month of September 2005.

Since this is classified as a miscellaneous payment, it will be subject to normal payroll taxes (Federal Income Tax and Social Security taxes).

Federal Income Tax will be deducted at a flat rate of 25% and Social Security taxes will be withheld at normal rates.

The net effect is you will see a reimbursement of approximately \$16 for a \$26 SGLI premium.

Members with reduced coverage will receive reimbursements consistent with their actual premium.

Members who declined coverage will not receive a reimbursement.

This payment will be direct deposited to the same account as your federal military pay.

The deposit will reflect a payment from the State of Florida, not DFAS.

A payment summary, similar to a State Active Duty earnings statement, will be generated but will **not** be mailed to your home address.

These will be manually distributed to your unit.

At this point, the next payment cycle is scheduled for sometime in January 2006 and will cover the period October - December 2005.

This will continue on a quarterly basis until the authorized funds have been exhausted.

Please address any questions to Mr. Glenn Burchfield, State Quartermaster's Office, at (904) 823-0252 or DSN 822-0252.

Annual Christmas lunch fun for all ages

*By Major Richard E. Bittner
125FW Public Affairs*

One of the most enjoyable traditions for fulltime employees of the 125th Fighter Wing is the annual Christmas Luncheon.

This years' lunch, held Friday Dec. 16, was no exception as almost 600 current and former technicians filed through the Wing Dining Facility for a meal of non-traditional pulled pork and barbeque chicken.

The yearly luncheon is a special time when retired former members come "home" to the wing to visit with old friends and reminisce.

Retiree's will soon out number current FTS members if the trend holds!

Master Sgt. Matt Rohn, 125CES, led the cooking and door prize committee teams and did a wonderful job as usual.

No one left hungry and several dozen members, including BG Emmett Titshaw, left the party with 'cherished' gifts.



Senior Master Sgt. John Cohee, Tactical Aircraft Superintendent, 125th Maintenance Squadron, chops wood for coals to cook chicken and pork during the Technician Christmas Party at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 16, 2005.



Marcus Lowe, son of Master Sgt. David Lowe, 125th Maintenance Squadron, waits patiently for his ticket to be called during gift give away at the 125th Fighter Wing Technician Christmas party, Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 16, 2005.



Mike Clayton, Robin Williams impressionist was this year's Master of Ceremonies for the Technician Christmas party.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

125th Fighter Wing retiree John Kent eagerly waits for his ticket number to be called during the gift give away.

Happy New Year from all of us at STARBASE!

By Mr. Greg Stritch
STARBASE Instructor

It's hard to believe that we're halfway through the school year already.

Time flies at Mach 3 when you're having fun. This season has seen us serving new schools with improvements to our building, new staff and new equipment. Ten years ago we moved out of the hangar into new digs at our present location next to headquarters.

We loved our new portable building but after ten years it was getting to look a little rough around the edges. State employees Raymond Newkirk and Jesse Denson have been busy non-stop, making necessary repairs, adding new trim and generally transforming our building from a frog to a prince.

Since our beginning we have primarily served the same seven schools in Duval County.

This year we said goodbye to several suburban schools and began to target the most challenged urban Title 1 schools in the district. Students and teachers alike from our newest schools have been wide eyed with wonder at all the amazing science "stuff" to see and do at STARBASE.

School supplies donated by Master Sgt. Sheila Williams in recruiting make every day at STARBASE seem like Christmas for our students.

In September Laura Nicole Evans left us to begin a two-year research project in the rain forest of Costa Rica.

She's having the time of her life directing ecological development projects and research in the jungle in Central America.

Coincidentally, Darcy Anurca returned to us from the Washington D.C. area. Some years ago she was our tech instructor and set up our first computer lab.

What a Godsend she's been, returning to us just in time to set up our new computer flight simulation lab. Sadly we lost Raquel Tucker in December as she and Lee headed off to the cold frozen north to start a new life in New York.

We're still with out a permanent director but every month



Al Seablom waives his magic wand and we have updated equipment.

We received new Flight Simulation programs this year along with yokes and rudder sets for 36 stations.

Everyone from retention and recruiting have been by to help with set up and trouble shooting as we worked to get it all set up in time to start school.

We now consider them all to be auxiliary STARBASE instructors and may call on them at any time to come assist with flight instruction.

Thanks again from all of us (to all of you) for all you do to enrich the lives of our wonderful scholars.

Base Tour

Students with the Air Force Junior ROTC program at Andrew Jackson High School listen to 125th pilot, Major Christopher Bembenick talk about the F-15 Eagle at the 125th Fighter Wing, Jacksonville Fla., Dec. 16, 2005.

The ROTC students toured several of the offices and buildings on the base. Tours such as this one serve as excellent recruiting opportunities.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Shelley R. Gill

In the Spotlight

Staff Sgt. Lee O. Tucker

Tucker, a visual information specialist at the 125th Fighter Wing, is a multi-talented staff sergeant whose skills include: photography, 'videography' and graphic design. He also designed most of the Eagle's Eye covers since the newsletter transitioned to a magazine format in 2001.

The guard's many educational opportunities and the chance to attend the military's premier communications and multimedia school, DINFOS (Defense Information School) were what drew Tucker to the Guard seven years ago.

Since joining the Guard, Tucker has received a Bachelor of Science degree in communications from the University of North Florida while working as a self-employed multimedia manager.

Like most Guard members, Tucker has had several memorable moments throughout his career.

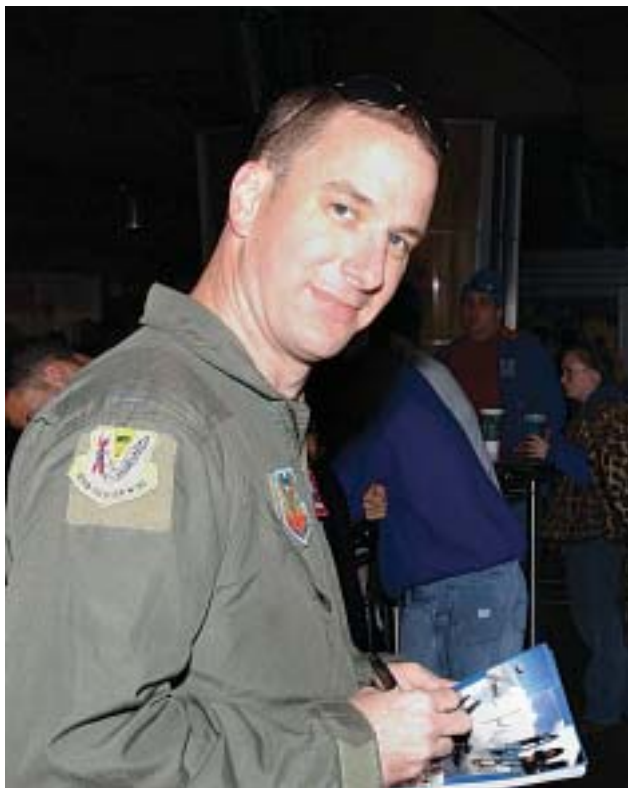
In December 2003, after qualifying to fly as a photographer in the F-15, Tucker flew over Alltel stadium to take pictures during the national anthem. The flyover was conducted by the 125th as a tribute to Pearl Harbor Day.

Another memorable moment was the day he met his wife, Tech. Sgt. Raquel Barriere (now Tucker).

According to Tucker, his goals in the Air Guard are the same as they are in the rest of his life: to develop skills for growth both professionally and personally.

"It is a great place to meet wonderful people, get an education and grow as a person," said Tucker. "It is an experience every person would benefit from."

Editors Note: The Eagle's Eye staff wishes a fond farewell to Staff Sgt. Lee Tucker and his wife, Raquel, as they leave the FANG family for new adventures in New York state. We will greatly miss their creativity and contributions to our PA team.



Florida Air National Guard Retiree Association

By Ernie Webster

FLANGRA President

Dear fellow retirees and spouses,

By the time you read this Christmas will be past and we will be into yet another year. I hope every one of you had a joyous Christmas season and I wish you a happy and prosperous 2006.

Our October dinner was a delightful evening with BG Balskus from State Headquarters acting as our guest speaker and nearly 100 of our group enjoyed the reef and beef dinner. It's always good to see the fellowship among the retiree's and I hope more will take advantage of a good meal and the time to visit with old friends.

Our next meeting will be April 28, 2006 and the same menu is planned. We are hoping to have Col. Charles Campbell, SEADS commander, as our guest speaker but that is not confirmed at this time. We've received a request for the POW/MIA presentation and the FANG Honor Guard has agreed to present that. It's always a beautiful and sobering ceremony.

Let's remember Hubert Owens, Chippy and Jackie Clark as they battle health problems, as well as all our Guardsmen deployed throughout the world.

Put April 28 on your calendar, ask a friend and let's have a good turn out. Hope to see you there!

Promotions

To Major

Robert L. Bloodworth, SEADS
Robert T. Botkin, 125MXS

To Chief Master Sgt.

Joseph E. Mann, 125MDG

To Senior Master Sgt.

Henry J. Bryant, 125SVF
Carlos A. Delanuez, 159WF
Thomas M. Weldon, 159FS

To Master Sgt.

Larry E. Amos, 125MXS
Eugene J. Anderson, Jr., SEADS
Dawn A. Batten, 125LRS
David A. Bebout, 202RHS
Shandria S. Brown, 125LRS
Timothy J. Cogan, 125SFS
Jerry F. Gardner, Jr., SEADS
Jeffrey L. Harris, 125LRS
James B. Harvey, 125FW Det. 1
Pelayo A. Hernandez, 325FW Assoc. Unit
Michael Humphrey, 125MXS
Robert D. Patterson, WRTC

To Technical Sgt.

Chongsok Cho, 125MXG
Apryl L. Conner, 125FW
Dean J. Diana, 125MXS
Oscar Figueroa, 202RHS
Sarah Hepburn, 290JCSS
David E. Moody, 125MDG
Roger A. Oudt, 125LRS
Hongan C. Pham, 125LRS
John E. Potts III, 290JCSS
Julie L. Sandberg, 125LRS
John E. Smith, 125OSF
Robert R. Tyson, 125CF
Cecil R. Wright, 125CES

To Staff Sgt.

Carmina N. Aguirre, 125MDG
Abea S. Balala, 125LRS
Timothy T. Carson, 125AMS
Jason S. Clark, 125MXG
Daniel S. Clemons, 125MXG
Michael G. Eftim, 125MDG
Adam N. Juchniewicz, 125LRS
Michael L. Kimball, 114CBCS
Rafael A. Lugo, 125AMS
Christina M. Morris, 125OSF
Kevin R. Needham, 125AMS
Erik M. Sheppard, 125AMS
Tanya M. Tarantino, 114CBCS
Daphne S. Violette, 159WF

Tiana N. Williams, 290JCSS

To Senior Airman

Kyle E. Jacobs, 125SFS
Christopher L. Lemley, 125MXG
Ian Martello, 290JCSS
Johnathon K. Myers, 125LRS
Jason N. Robshaw, 202RHS
William H. Smith, 290JCSS
Robert A. Wike, Jr., 125MDG

To Airman First Class

Leslie G. Manhoo, 290JCSS

Welcomes

Lt Col Scott J. Barberides, SEADS
Lt Col John E. Fisher, SEADS
Lt Col Frederick S. Floyd, SEADS
Lt Col Johnny L. Kelley, SEADS
Major Todd K. Boulware, SEADS
Maj Mark A. Peterson, 290 JCSS
Capt Kyle L. Beatty, 114 CBCS
Capt Jeffrey L. Hedges, 125FW
Capt Teresa R. Frank, 125MSF
Capt Byran D. Van Brunt, 125FW
1Lt Ryan A. Bocchi, 159FS
1Lt Michelle M. Cole, 125MDG
MSgt John K. Schneider, SEADS
TSgt David J. Ballard, 125MXS
TSgt Jerry L. Cooper, SEADS
TSgt Robert F. Fuess, 125FW/Det. 1
TSgt Michael D. Horton, 325FW Assoc. Unit
TSgt James H. Johann, Jr., 290JCSS
TSgt Jason A. Lewis, 125MXS
TSgt Daniel Lopez, SEADS
TSgt Benjamin J. Newton, SEADS
TSgt Juan E. Rodriguez, 125 MS
TSgt Dawson J. Sandvick 114, CBCS
TSgt Edward V. Tirotta, SEADS
SSgt Angela M. Acosta 125 CF
SSgt Edward P. Aguilar, 125MXS
SSgt Steve Batistavega, 125MXS
SSgt Josh L. Devoe, SEADS
SSgt Clovis Gordon, 114CBCS
SSgt Eric Kleinschnitz, 114CBCS
SSgt Jacob L. Lemon, 125FW
SSgt Lisette Ortiz, 125FW
SSgt Christopher D. Park, 125AMS
SSgt Kevin C. Puckett, 125AMS
SSgt Gregory L. Rutledge, 125SFS
SSgt Jorge A. Torres, 125MXS
SrA Jessica N. Boone, 290JCSS
SrA Troy D. Caserotti, 202 RHS
SrA Angela M. Farfsing 125 MS
SrA Logan R. Forst, 125SVF
SrA William E. Graff, 125CES

SrA Jeanpaul L. Heath, 125LRS
SrA Davina I. Kleinschnitz, 125MDG
SrA Jeffrey F. Krocka, 125MXS
SrA Alex R. Michel, 290JCSS
SrA Christina M. Morris, 125OSF
SrA Amilcar Padilla, 125SVF
SrA Kenneth N. Peterson, 125LRS
SrA Randall J. Warner, 114CBCS
SrA Arron J. Witzigman, 159FS
A1C Daniel Cales, 114CBCS
A1C David C. Laverly, 202RHS
A1C Rory K. McCoid, 125MXS
A1C Nicholas R. Mistishen, 125SFS
A1C Christopher A. Reilly, 125MXS
A1C Lashon D. Wynn, 125MSG

Farewells

Lt Col Homer B. Blackman III, 125OG
Lt Col Michael J. Theobald, SEADS
Lt Col James G. V. Whittemore, 125OSF
Major Carol M. Tompkins, 125MDG
CMSgt Linda Sadesky, 125FW
MSgt Luis R. Crespo, 125CES
MSgt William M. Futch, 125AMS
MSgt Gerald H. Haddock, 125MXS
MSgt Tommy W. Haley, 125SVF
MSgt Juan Perez, Jr., 125LRS
MSgt Jane M. Rogers, 125MSF
MSgt Earl D. Smith, 290JCSS
TSgt J. M. Moody, Jr., 202RHS
TSgt John D. Riddle, 290JCSS
TSgt Lawrence E. Williams III, 125FW
SSgt Vincent J. Crawford, 290JCSS
SSgt Daniel I. Frank, Jr., 290JCSS
SSgt Edwin T. Parsons, 202RHS
SSgt Keith A. Straw, 125SVF

The FANG in transition...



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